

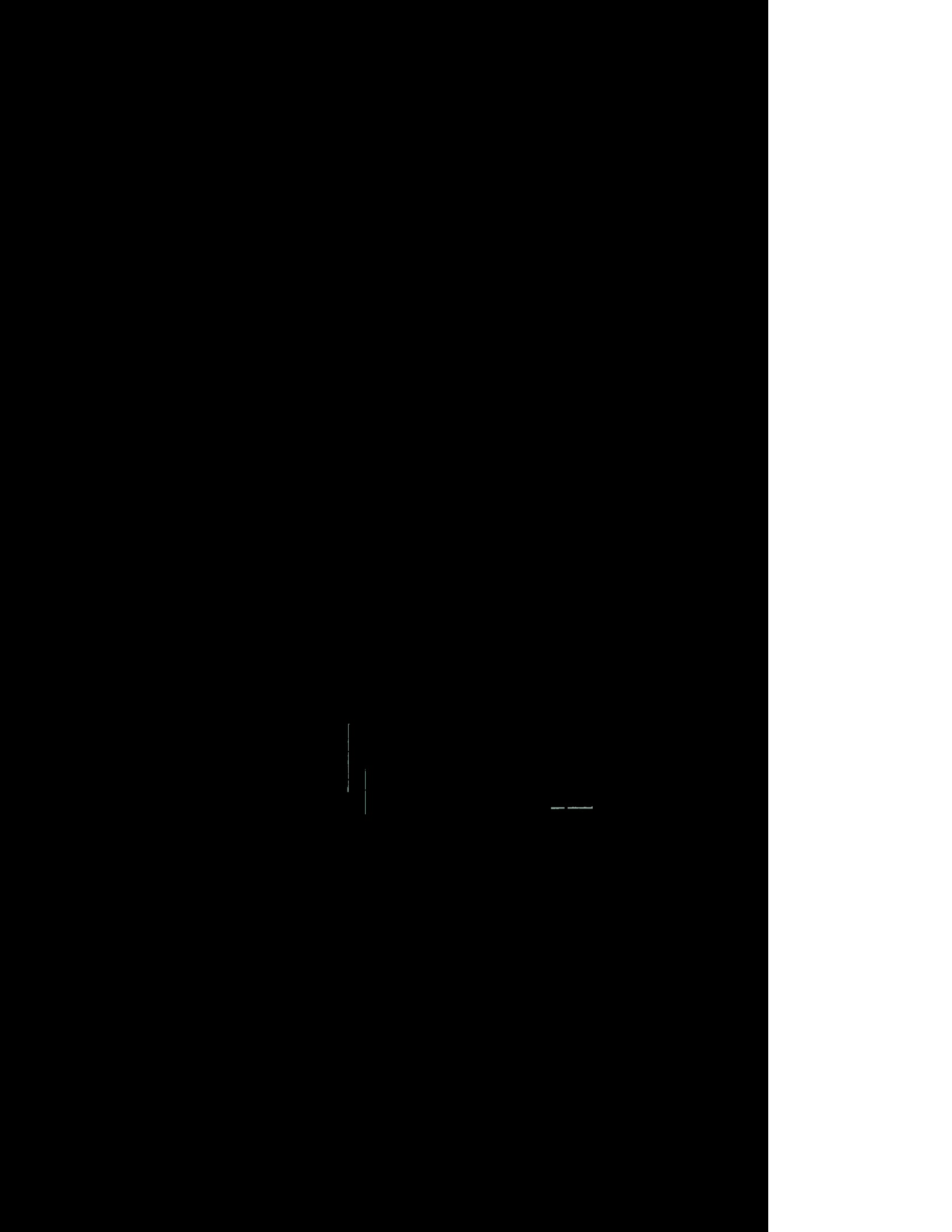
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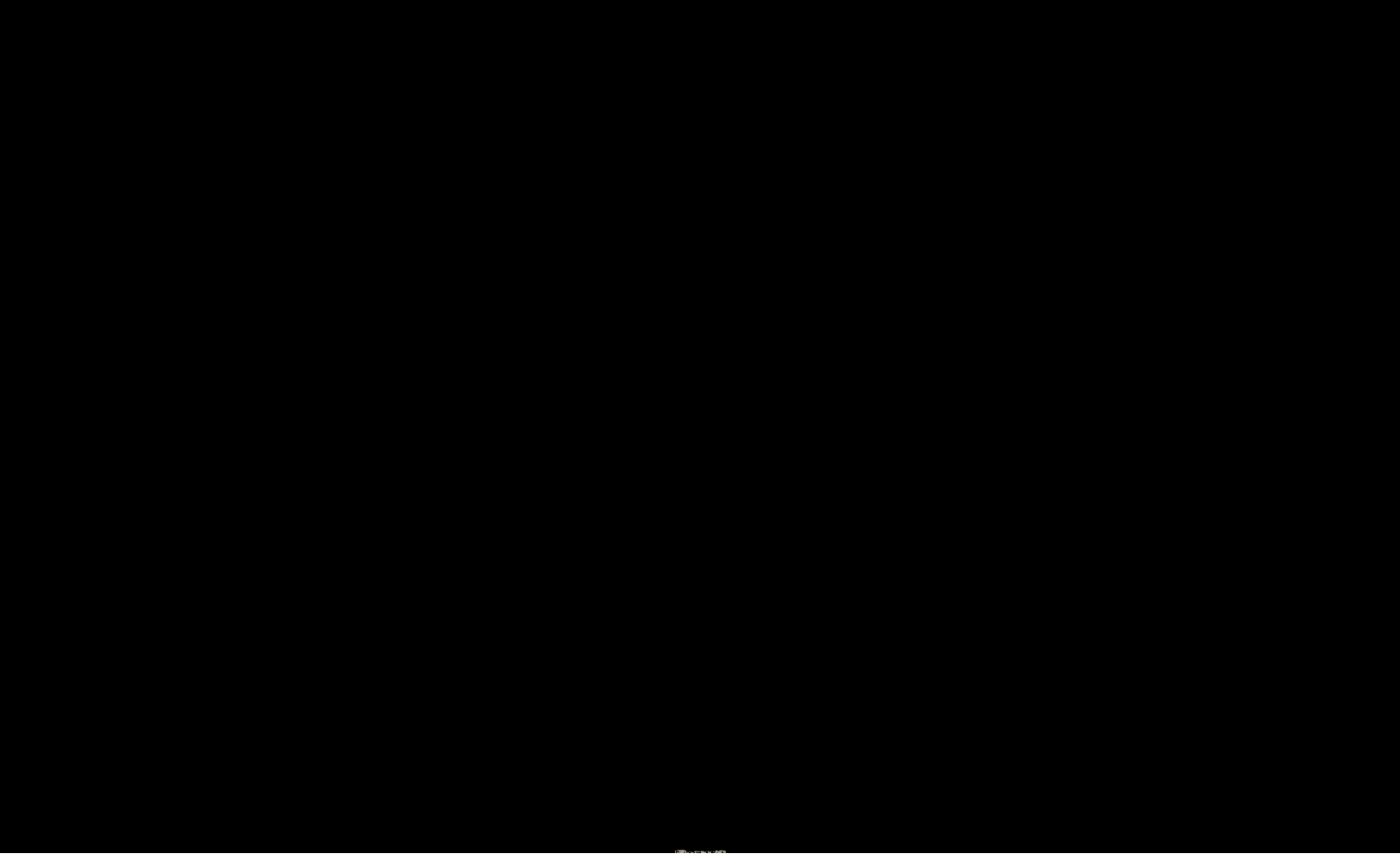
Gift of the Author

# HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

By

CHARLES C. MURRAH









# HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

CHARLES C. MURRAH

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## DEDICATION

This pamphlet is particularly dedicated to my Mother, who devoted her life to the advancement of religion and education. If it brings her memory before the men and women of to-day, who were the boys and girls of her tutorage, I shall feel well repaid for this publication.



## FOREWORD

"Creal Springs Seminary", opened its doors as a school on September 22, 1884. On August 29, 1888, by virtue of a Charter granted by the Secretary of State, of the State of Illinois, it became known as "Creal Springs Seminary Company".

On January 5, 1894, a Charter was granted to "Creal Springs College and Conservatory of Music", which corporation became the legal successor of "Creal Springs Seminary Company".

Creal Springs College and Conservatory of Music, continued until the year 1916, when it closed its doors never to re-open again as an institution of learning.

That is the beginning and the end of the oldest educational establishment of its kind in Williamson County, Illinois. The years between 1884 and 1916 now belong to history. And with the intention of preserving at least a part of that history, the author has put together the events pertinent to such an undertaking.

The records examined were voluminous and contain the names of thousands of persons who in some way were identified with Creal Springs. The omission of any name or event is for no other reason than lack of information concerning the same.

Believing this publication to be authentic, and hoping that it may be interesting to many people now living, my typewriter and I proceed.

Marion, Illinois,  
September 1, 1937.

CHARLES C. MURRAH.



The above photograph is a correct likeness of Great Springs College and Conservatory of Music as it appeared in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and at the time of its closing as an educational institution.





## GERTRUDE BROWN MURRAH

GERTRUDE BROWN, was born on a farm near old Bainbridge, in Williamson County, Illinois, on December 18, 1851. She attended school at Brownsville country school, Southern Illinois College at Carbondale, State Institute at Flora, Ewing College at Ewing, and graduated from the College Department of Mt. Carroll Seminary, Mt. Carroll, in the Class of 1875.

She taught in the country schools of Williamson and Franklin Counties, in the High School at Frankfort, in Ewing College, in Creal Spring Seminary, and in Creal Springs College and Conservatory of Music.

On October 6, 1866, she was baptized and became a member of Hurricane Baptist Church, located near Carterville, Illinois. In that religion she never wavered.

On October 3, 1880, at the home of her parents, near Franklin, Illinois, she was married to Henry Clay Murrah. To this union, two sons were born.

In 1912, a former member of the Illinois Legislature wrote of her as follows: "I have personally known Mrs. Gertrude Brown Murrah for more than forty years, and have watched her career with great interest. As founder and President of Creal Springs Seminary and later of Creal Springs College she has done a magnificent work for the young men and women of this and other States. As a teacher, I doubt if she has any superior in this country. Her personality is an in-

spiration to those who come in her. She devoted  
character and has the wonderful faculty of making  
and women of those who have come her charge  
has overcome obstacles that seemed insurmountable, and  
rare patience and fortitude has carried on a work, the  
results of which will last through eternity."

Gertrude Brown Murrah, died at the home of her  
Frank C. Murrah, in Herrin, Illinois, on the 3rd day  
January, 1929. She was buried beside her husband in R  
Hill Cemetery, at Marion, Ill.

## HENRY CLAY MURRAH

To be a farmer, merchant, salesman, and teacher, Henry Clay Murrah was born on a farm near Nashville, Tennessee, on April 11, 1847. He came to Illinois with his parents when a small boy and located on a farm near what is now Johnston City. He attended school in the country schools, in Ewing College at Ewing, Illinois, and in the Southern Illinois Normal, at Carbondale.

He taught in the country schools of Williamson and Franklin Counties, in Creal Springs Seminary, and Creal Springs College and Conservatory of Music.

He died at Creal Springs, Illinois, on June 9, 1920. Reading a newspaper account of his death, one of his former pupils wrote as follows:

"When I read of the death of Mr. Murrah, it made me very, very sad, for I knew that one of the best friends of my childhood had passed to the great beyond. His kind ways and hearty laugh made us his friend. . . ."



## INSTRUCTORS

The names of Gertrude Brown Murrah and Henry Clay are given special prominence in this publication, for the fact that both are inseparably linked with the origination and end of the institution about which this article is written. There are, however, many other Instructors and Teachers who have given much of their time and energy toward the development of the Seminary and College. From Catalogues we give names of the following Instructors and Teachers in Departments:

Alice P. McIntire	M. A. Fisher
Miss Lovina Odum	Miss Emma Cullett
Miss J. White	Miss Flora Keith
Miss Dora Nick	D. H. Harris
Miss Marie Odum	Miss Vina S. Denel
Miss M. M. Hatch	Miss Grace Herrin
Miss Harrie Chamness	W. E. Richardson
Miss Sarah Moyers	Miss Minnie Owen
Miss Augusta D. Swan	Miss Amanda M. Hicks
Miss M. M. Call	Miss Ruth Herrin
Miss Lucie L. Barlow	Mrs. L. A. Bidez
Miss Clara Brown	J. P. F. Smith
F. W. Nott	Miss Alta Holmes Blackmore
T. O. Hawkins	Miss Beatrice Pickett
Ed Simpson	Miss Ella Heston
Brown	Miss Dora Ullrich
Chamness	Miss Ella Augusta Bulkley

Miss Nora Calhoun

Miss Lula Slack

Miss Carrie Bellmar

Hubert L. Atwood

Frank Haywood

Miss Zoe W'land

Miss Carrie Burlingame

Miss Carrie A. Hardwick

Miss Maud G. Blackman

Miss S. Olive Williams

E. J.

Miss Ruth

Miss Georgia A. I

Miss Ada Atwood

Miss Sarah Middlebrook

Miss Mayme B. McD.

Miss Estelle Craham

Miss Vilona Brownlee

Miss Anna Townsend

Miss Watkins

Miss Mable Ruegle

To these splendid men and women who are now living and especially those with whom the author came in contact we express appreciation for many, many kindnesses on their part, and to a few, a belated acknowledgment of some merit.

## THE RECORDS

Many of the early records of the Seminary are written in long hand with pen and ink. So perfect are the characters and so neat the shading, that at first glance one

taken out of a Spencian copy book

first printed

was a catalogue printed in 1884

the "Union Job Office" in Marion, Illinois. It is a printed pamphlet of 100 pages including the covers. In it is a list of the Faculty.

listed as follows:

Seminary The

H. C. MURRAH, Proprietor.

MRS. G. B. MURRAH, Principal.

MISS ALICE P. McINTIRE, Teacher of Instrumental Music and Voice Culture.

ED SIMPSON, Teacher of Penmanship.

MISS LOVINA ODUM, Teacher in the Preparatory Department.

MISS CORA BROWN, Teacher of Primary Studies.

Similar publications were issued annually thereafter, until 1894, when the first "Catalogue of Creal Springs College", was printed by the "Democrat Print", of Metropolis, Illinois.

The largest catalogue found was printed and published in 1904, but the name of the printer is not shown on it. It is on a high grade of paper, a splendid job of printing, and similar to the publications of the present day. It has 48 pages and is neatly bound. There were 81 students that year, with six graduating. The following courses were offered in the institution at that time:

CLASSICAL, Degree of A. B.

LATIN SCIENTIFIC, Degree of B. S.

PHILOSOPHICAL, Degree of Ph. B.

ACADEMIC AND COURSES IN MUSIC.





and A. was as follows

The Faculty

MRS. G. H.

H. C. A'ur

Mrs. Hattie

Mrs. Carrie

Mrs. Ella A

Mrs. Georgia

Mrs. Barbara

Mrs. Ruth D

Wood

Mrs. Sarah M. H. H. H.

Mrs. Ella H. H.

Mrs. Clara H. H.

Mrs. Clara H. H.

Mrs. L. A

Mrs. L

and for public affairs all  
members of the teachers

## ATION AND CONSTRUCTION

is located in the Southern part of Illinois.  
of Wildwood, on an elevation of the Ozark  
It is 1500 feet above the level of the  
above Cairo and 500 feet higher than St. Louis.

A man by the name of Edward C. Creal owned the land  
City was built and numerous natural springs  
& qualities were discovered there Hence the  
SPRINGS.

To the south of the south City Limits ran "Sugar Creek",  
stream, and above it was "Turkey Bluff".  
the clear water. And there were  
glories and roses and tall  
hills and waving trees and acorns and fresh  
soil dark and damp and warm and soft. The freshness  
of earth and the beauty of nature were there.  
er, it was and winter, summer and  
and daylight, rain and sunshine, just as his years

On A. 1884, Henry C. Murray and Gertrude  
acquired title to five acres of ground in this loca-  
tion E. C. Creal and Amanda C. Creal, his wife, "to  
for school

to this place the Murrahs came in the of  
Creal Springs, no had

thought of the name  
with the HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

At highest point on recently acc.  
Murray and Henry  
to be erected a rectangular wooden building,  
and 50 feet wide. There was a full  
room, kitchen, a dining  
room. There was a hallway down the center. The  
level was the assembly room, early referred to as  
"the hall."

The third level was divided into seven  
of the students. The was partly divided  
and other articles for which no ad.  
was made.

Ch. Square  
HARRY" I. "CREAL. SIM  
in the building.

and the  
and two years of  
foundations to be of a  
plan and  
from the firm.

that they associated themselves  
open rapidly, and at the  
College students, 31 P.  
and 9 Vice students

yet thought of the hard road and the automobile. In truth the HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS.

At the highest point on their recently acquired land, Gertrude B. Murrah and Henry Clay M. decided to be erected a rectangular building

40 feet wide. There was a full basement, divided into seven rooms. There was a hallway in the center. The first level was the assembly room, early to be called "Hall."

The third level was divided into seven rooms for the use of girl students. The "attic" was used for the storage of books and other articles for which no other place could be found.

On September 22, 1884, CREAL SPRINGS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, formally opened in this building, dedicated to the mental, moral and Christian culture. The school gave four years of primary work and two years of Collegiate. It was the intention of the founders to build a school for girls only, but on opening day, as many boys as girls applied for admission. This changed the original plan and the school became co-educational from the first.

Although but few persons presented themselves for admission on opening day, the school grew rapidly, and by the end of the first year there were 12 Collegiate students, 31 Primary students and 9 Music students.

1890 an  
structure, three stories in height,  
class rooms on  
floor, living rooms on the

floor.

to give in

was to the West of the

building. On the first floor of this last addition, were  
large class rooms; on the second floor, two living rooms  
room; on the third floor, four  
rooms; and on the top floor, two living rooms. All available  
space in these buildings was immediately taken for school  
rooms, class rooms, living quarters for the founders, and living  
quarters for a number of girl students. Lack of space, however,  
a number

of students to find living quarters in private homes in Cress

In about the year 1900, plans were made and blue prints  
to be erected about 200 feet

of the original building which was to have a large auditorium,  
and a boys' Dormitory, but construction

Death only divorced the founders  
for the blue prints were found among their

belongings

## THE COLLEGE CAMPUS

The five acre tract of land mentioned in an earlier part  
of this history was enclosed with wooden fencing. There was

also a wooden fence running north  
one hundred feet in  
remainder of the

separate

from

on

In the north east part of this fenced-off space  
was a wooden barn, with its sta-  
bles and two rows of  
loft. The  
the west side of the barn was the chicken house where the  
and the white and brown hens were kept in the

South of the Chicken house was the proverbial wind shed  
and the author remembers several occasions when he was  
wind shed was  
father. Still  
further south was the potato  
round  
and for storing supplies

There were still three other structures on the  
which we hesitate to mention, but this article would be more  
plete unless we did. Suffice it to say, they were the same as  
as built. Sale wrote about in his book  
"The Specialist"

The main building just east of the main College building  
up to the west line the whole time was the College  
Campus. To the north of the buildings were apple  
pear and quince trees. To the south and to  
the College building  
there were rose bushes and green

both. And it was not long before the whole campus was

When red haired Autumn with her falling golden leaves,  
l her head from under fast moving clouds; when the  
g air was resonant with the warbled melody of a thousand  
retolent of the perfume of many flowers;  
disappeared, leaving a blood red smear in  
twilight and long, creeping shadows came  
both teachers and pupils could be seen  
in song, in study, in meditation, and

## EQUIPMENT

was a cook stove with six lids on top and  
It was fueled with wood at first and later  
were two long tables, a cupboard for  
tile at the east end. In the dining room  
ere tables and chairs with places for eight at each table. A  
at the south end.

There was a raised platform at the west end of "Seminary  
and near it were the President's desk and chair. The  
of the hall was filled with desks placed  
on either side and a double aisle down the

The class rooms were equipped with the same style of  
placed in the same manner, with a table and chair at  
ent for the use of the Instructor. There were blackboards  
the walls in the clas



The laboratory although it was small and  
Most of the experiments and research work in the  
this were done

There was a library which until it contained  
of history.

(Annual Record was

clothes closet, stove, table, and rug  
of the structure in Music and  
the three engines

## WATER SUPPLY

There was a cistern on either side of the original  
by gathering and from the roofs of the  
These cisterns furnished a

concrete purposes, and they were drawn  
materials

corner of the east wing was a rock-  
containing an abundant supply of cold  
purposes. This well was fed by a  
although the demand on it was  
to any

Another well lined containing soft water which was used for cooking purposes.

This supply was guarded zealously. And although scarce at any time, none was ever traced to Creal Springs College.

## AND

the large buildings were heated with coal or wood  
burners located in most every room in the big wooden house.

The kitchen was the largest stove the author saw, around it when the days were cold outside, would the greater part of the student body

in living rooms, and reflectors on the backs of those in

apparatus in Creal Springs was wells, and human hands. Although the year many buildings in town were destroyed College buildings are still standing. It would seem for the purpose for which erected.

O  
A  
M

preparation was organized  
it was organized in  
such as follows:

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provide for thorough  
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was included in

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for obtaining  
in connection with

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as are  
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Scientific  
who are  
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Museum, by  
the day  
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lutions and the heads  
and he mentions of  
connected with the  
2-15-68

Smith, Corral Springs, Ill.

H. C. Allen

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## How New Bernards

Rev. Calvin Allen, Creal Springs, Ill.

Rev. J. K. Trovillion, Brownfield,

M. E. Chamness, Chamness, Illinois

Levi Ferrell, Creal Springs, Illinois.

Rev. G. W. Danbury, DuQuoin, Illinois.

Rev. John A. Williams, Dongola, Illinois.

Rev. C. Nolen, Parrish, Illinois.

Rev. L. L. Smoot, Vienna, Illinois.

Not only were two-thirds of the first Trustees elected members of regular Baptist churches, but ALL of them were. Ten of the fifteen were MINISTERS of Baptist Churches.

At the first meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. C. B. Murrah was elected President of the College.

## THE ERINA LITERARY SOCIETY

Is there a man or woman now living who ever attended the Seminary or College who does not remember FR NIGHT and the Erina Literary Society?

It was the night of the day the school week ended. It was the night that both Teachers and Students were given an opportunity for expression. And (incidentally) it was the night many a romance found its beginning; *vitus nemo sine nascitur*

Ed Simpson  
Pro Tem.

meeting on October 1st  
President and Sula Smith the 1st

The Society had a Constitution and By-Laws. The object stated "shall be the improvement of its members in the music, debate, oration, recitation and reading and the cultivation of those styles and graces of delivery essential to perfection in any of the above exercises"

The Society also had a publication called the "Firinian". A copy of the publication dated February, 1895, was noted, and in it the Editorial Staff were listed as:

Ruth Herrin

Thos. E. Benton

Bertie Brown

Jas. F. Nick

## THE SCHOOL YEAR

The school year began the first of September and ended the first of June. It was divided into Terms the Fall Term, Winter Term, and the Spring Term. There was a vacation in the middle of the year during Christmas week and at Thanksgiving. In the months of June, July and August the large wooden College buildings were vacant, except the living quarters of the students. During these hot summer months when the blistering heat of the sun beat down ferociously the founders busied themselves in re-arranging and cleaning the buildings and in growing and storing provisions for the coming year. The wind, the sun, the rain, and the haze on the hills, spoke a language well understood. Each loveliness of light and shadow they

Day after day, week after week, school exercises began each morning at eight o'clock in the "Hall". There was an old-fashioned organ at first, later replaced by a piano which stood in the southeast corner of the hall. A hymn was played and a verse was read from the Bible, followed by a prayer led by Mr. Murrah. Not a prayer of high sounding phrases from the lips, but a fervent, simple prayer that could come only from the heart—always: Almighty God for guidance.

After the morning exercises were over, the school day began in earnest. The school day ended at four o'clock. From four o'clock until seven o'clock was the study period and at seven o'clock the day was ended for all except the

## COMMENCEMENT

The last week in each school year was called Commencement Week. Why the ending of anything should be called the commencement we shall not try to explain here. But that is the way it is. Commencement Week at Creal Springs College resembled a yearly gathering of a large family. Old graduates and old students came back. The Board of Trustees met and elected a President and a Vice President.

The Commencement exercises had no reunion. The solemn graduation

... on ... evening ended the planned occasions  
... week. Then the teachers and students went hurrying  
each other again.

## THE STUDENT BODY

... who through the years attended the Seminary or Col-  
... several ... students later became  
... the institution and their names are shown among the list.  
To all former ... now living ... say that we  
... measure of ... them ... to you  
of the fact that you were identified with Creel  
Seminary or Creel Springs College and Conservatory of Music.

## CONCLUSION

December 24, 1916, the founders of Creel Springs  
and Creel Springs College and Conservatory of  
Music closed the doors of the College building and moved to  
live in the fringe of the woods ... about 400 feet  
of the College Campus. Here they lived until the death  
Henry Clay Murrah in the summer of 1920.

... speak of their hopes and fears? Who can solve  
their quiet hours that only they knew? ...  
... and ocean, or among the breakers,  
must mark the end of one and all".

"farewell" is the saddest word in our language  
flying clouds scudded across the cold wet



face of the moon on that January night in 1929, when she died, did Gertrude Brown Murrah say farewell to Great Springs College and Conservatory of Music the institution of learning to which she gave her life.

The end.

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